

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants amend claims 1, 5, 6, 9 and 11-14. Applicants seek approval for these amendments. Applicants believe these amendments place the claims in better condition for allowance and do not require further search. Applicants cancel claims 4 and 10. Applicants do not add any new claims. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-14 are pending.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,444,537 issued to Yoshimora, et al. (hereinafter "Yoshimora").

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6 and 11-14 to incorporate the elements indicated as allowable by the Examiner on page 3, paragraph 3 of the Examiner's office action mailed February 19, 2004. The Examiner has previously indicated that the subject matter now present in all independent claims is allowable subject matter. Similarly, dependent claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 incorporate the limitations of independent claims 1 and 6. Therefore, these claims are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-14 are requested.

II. Objection to the Claims

Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 are objected to for depending from independent claims that have been rejected. Applicants have cancelled claims 4 and 10. Applicants have amended claims 5 and 9 to be in independent form and to include all of the limitations of their respective parent claims. Therefore, Applicants believe claims 5 and 9 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 5 and 9 are requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-14 patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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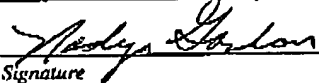
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Nadya Gordon

Signature Date March 26, 2004